

Message Text

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13-S
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 L-02 IGA-01 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 DODE-00 SSO-00

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O 200520Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8669

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 16820

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILLER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, CB
SUBJECT: CEILING ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND PROPOSED PL 480
AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 278562
(B) PHNOM PENH 16790
(C) PHNOM PENH 16791

1. I AM AT THIS MOMENT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED LEST PL 480 OPERATIONAL DECISIONS IN THE NEXT DAYS AND WEEKS PUT US IRRETRIEVABLY ON THE ROAD OF A RICE ONLY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

2. A RICE ONLY PROGRAM WOULD BE A CALAMITY, JUST AS RUNNING OUT OF RICE WOULD BE A DIASTER. IT WOULD REQUIRE SHUTTING DOWN OF ALL OTHER FORMS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THAT WOULD DEAL A FEARFUL BLOW TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC'S VERY FRAGILE ECONOMY. MASS UNEMPLOYMENT, WIDESPREAD STRIKES AND UNREST, TOGETHER WITH HYPERINFLATION IN THE RANGE OF 1,000 PERCENT PER YEAR ARE SUFFICIENTLY REALISTIC CONSEQUENCES FOR US TO EXPECT THEM WITH A RICE ONLY PROGRAM. IT IS MOST DOUBTFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC COULD LONG ENDURE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

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3. SINCE THIS IS A POLICY MATTER OF SUCH GRAVE IMPORTANCE,
I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COUNSEL BEFORE WE CONCUR IN IMMEDIATE
AUGMENTATION OF THE PL 480 AGREEMENT WHICH IS PROPOSED IN
REF (A).DEAN

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Message Attributes

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